

# MINUTES



**DPAC**  
DISTRICT PARENT  
ADVISORY COUNCIL  
ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Date:** April 25, 2024

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom Meeting

**Executives in Attendance:** Shannon Rose, Chair  
Michelle Bastien, Vice Chair  
Tracey Lamoureux, Treasurer  
Winsome Rauch, Secretary  
Heidi Smit Vinois, Special Education Representative

**Attendance:** See Zoom Attendance attached.

**Special Guests:** Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk, Trustee Preet Rai, Nicci Allen, Fraser Health

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## 1 Call to Order

Chair Shannon Rose called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. A quorum was met.

## 2 Welcome & Introductions

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous Community

## 3 Presentation from Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk – Part 1

Boards of Education must submit a 5-year capital plan by June 30th. The importance of a Long-Range Facilities Plan for district-wide capital planning was discussed. Eligible project categories include seismic mitigation, school expansion, and more. Considerations in the Long-Range Facilities Plan:

- Population Trends and Enrolment Projections
- Impact of Residential Development
- School Capacity and Utilization
- Immigration Impact in Abbotsford

Planning information and enrolment projections were presented by family of schools. Engagement survey feedback regarding budget plan is due by April 26th.

## 4 Q & A with Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk - Part 1

Q: As far as enrollments go, do you see more capacity for secondary schools in Abbotsford? Or only middle school?

A: There are plans to increase capacity at Mouat and Yale secondary schools. Previously, Mouat had 8 or 10 portables to accommodate demand. Other nearby areas like Surrey, Burnaby, and Langley are employing measures like double shifts and opening schools for 2500 students due to rapid growth, but Abbotsford hasn't experienced the same pace of growth. However, Abbotsford has consistently been at 100% capacity. We're expecting announcements before the end of the

school year and are collaborating with the ministry to manage growth effectively without facing the same challenges as Surrey.

Q: Will the feeder schools for Abby Middle change?

A: Currently, Abby Middle has 7 feeder schools, but there are plans for some changes. Semath and Barrowtown will now feed into Fraser/Yale instead of Abby Middle/Senior, though some families will be grandfathered in to continue attending Abby Middle. Boundary shifts might be necessary due to the location of these schools, but that hasn't been officially decided yet. However, all middle schools in the area are expected to be at full capacity soon. There's a need for additions to Fraser, Abby Middle, and even Reimer, which was previously at 50% capacity but is now filling up due to densification leading to enrollment pressures.

## **5 Presentation from Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk – Part 2**

The budget engagement survey received 268 responses so far. What was noted was a need for better explanation of Accumulated Surplus, a key indicator of financial health. This is outlined in AP 524. With a \$240 million budget, the accumulated surplus includes internally restricted funds for planned future operations and requirements, such as strategic plan initiatives. Currently, the unrestricted operating surplus sits at \$4,283,174, falling within the desired range of \$2.3M to \$7M. Enrolment estimates from 2023/25 to 2026/27 anticipate increases, particularly in ELL students.

Preliminary budget assumptions include an enrolment increase of approximately 218 FTE students, with no shifts in provincial operating grants and considerations for collective agreement and exempt salary/benefit. Budget pressures include inflationary pressures, continuing board contributions to capital projects, environmental cost pressures, new ERP implementation, increasing employee absence costs, and student transportation services and costs.

There's also an increasing demand for space, with the school district at 101% total capacity, leading to the necessity of portable classrooms which incur expenses ranging from \$115K to \$200K each. Lack of new space construction could result in further expenses for the district. Engagement survey information will inform the 2024-25 budget development plan.

## **6 Q&A with Secretary Treasurer Ray Velestuk - Part 2**

Q: Do you track students migrating to homeschools or independent schools from public schools?

A: We lack information on students not enrolled in public schools. While independent school enrollment has been relatively stable, there's a segment of students we refer to as "unaccounted for" who live in the community but whose whereabouts we don't know. They may attend schools in other districts or independent institutions.

Q: What is our total budget?

A: Our total budget amounts to \$250 million, with \$220 million allocated for operating grants and approximately \$20 million for classroom enhancement. The budget meeting at the school board

office is scheduled for May 16, potentially held virtually. Most budget decisions will be made by the end of May.

Q: What constitutes classroom enhancement?

A: Classroom enhancement relates to the provisions outlined in the 2015/16 teachers' collective agreement regarding class size composition. Discrepancies in teacher allocation exist, with districts like Richmond and Langley receiving significantly more teachers due to their classroom enhancement funds.

Q: What about buses for graduation trips?

A: While we aim to provide school buses for graduation trips, our ongoing daily commitments limit transportation availability for field trips or extracurricular activities. Public consultation for services may be necessary next year to address this issue,

Q: Is there a chartered bus company that offers preferred rates?

A: Currently, schools handle chartered bus arrangements independently, as we don't have an official request for proposal (RFP) for such services. We can't contract out what's necessary for students, and decisions like buying school buses depend on the ministry's approval.

Q: Will we adopt electric buses like Abby Christian?

A: We requested buses two years ago but haven't acquired them yet. Shifting to electric buses would require a pilot program to transition from our current gas buses.

Q: Regarding ELL and indigenous students, how does funding work?

A: We receive regular per-student funding along with an additional \$1700 for each ELL student. This year, \$6 million was allocated for ELL learning. Mid-year growth, particularly in immigration, has resulted in increased demand for special education services. Difficulty in hiring staff, such as teachers and educational assistants, exacerbates the strain in providing specialty services.

At the request of the Board, principals will have a meeting with their PAC about the budget and confirm when this is done.

## **7 Presentation from Nicci Allen, Fraser Health**

Nicci Allen from Fraser Health outlined the role of public health nurses in the Healthy Schools program, emphasizing the goal of creating vibrant and healthy school environments through partnerships and collective action. The program includes 12 nurses across the region, with one assigned to each district, except for Surrey, which has three. These nurses work within Fraser Health's wellness program and collaborate with schools and community partners.

Comprehensive School Health (CSH) is highlighted as the guiding framework, focusing on evidence-based strategies that encompass various aspects such as school policies, relationships,

environments, community partnerships, and teaching methods. The analogy of a frog in the pond is used to illustrate the importance of addressing multiple factors rather than relying solely on isolated interventions like drug education programs.

Key wellness topics addressed include mental wellness, active living, healthy eating, sexual health, and substance abuse. The nurses provide professional development sessions for school staff, support data collection efforts, lead information sessions for parents, and connect schools with resources and services.

Data from sources like the McCreary Reports, Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI), and Youth Development Instrument (YDI) are used to assess the health status of students and inform interventions. District-wide initiatives include the development of a sexual health toolkit and addressing vaping through education sessions and youth ambassador programs.

Specific focus school initiatives, such as school gardens (Mountain Elementary) and promoting active living and playgrounds (Barrowtown Elementary), were highlighted.

## **8 Q&A with Nicci Allen, Fraser Health**

Q: Who can parents contact if they want more help with substance abuse and feel their school isn't addressing it?

A: Depending on the school, parents can reach out to us. We have pilots like the "I Quit for me" program in Mission, and we work with teachers and schools.

Q: Can you elaborate on the pilot vaping program?

A: Someone from the school and I go into the school, ideally a leadership class, and teach them the BC Lung curriculum program. Then those students teach the program to younger students. Peer-to-peer is more effective than teacher-led. Yale students did a similar talk, not involving Fraser Health.

Q: Can you elaborate on the sexual toolkit that was mentioned?

A: The sexual toolkit is quite extensive and comprehensive. Langley created one that was very large and includes resources such as lesson plans. It's essentially a one-stop shop for sexual health education. The toolkit is essentially an online OneNote binder that contains various resources that teachers can access. It includes clickable links to websites and materials that support sexual health education. Before implementation, the toolkit needs to go through the district for vetting. At this point, nothing further can happen until the district reviews and approves it. See [teachingsexualhealth.ca](http://teachingsexualhealth.ca). This website offers a wealth of resources and materials for sexual health education.

Q: When does sexual education happen?

A: Physical Health Education (PHE) would teach it in secondary schools. All teachers K-12 are supposed to teach it. It is in the curriculum, but many teachers are uncomfortable. Elementary and

middle school teachers should teach it in their own classes. It is hard to find presenters to do that. Nursing students from UFV sometimes help. We want to see it taught throughout the year, not just once.

Q: How can parents opt out of sexual education?

A: I believe they can opt out for the day.

Q: Could there be a Zoom link if materials from the toolkit are presented?

A: When the district seeks feedback, they'll reach out to parents through surveys. We collaborate with public health, and the district will inform parents about what's being taught.

### **9 Approval of the Minutes from February 22, 2024**

Secretary Winsome Rauch presented the minutes of the February 22, 2024 meeting. It was MOVED by Chair Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Marc Vella (Abbotsford Sr) THAT the minutes of the February 22, 2024 General Meeting be approved as presented. CARRIED

### **10 Treasurer report**

Treasurer Tracey Lamoureux provided Closing G/L Account balances as of April 25, 2024

10.1	DPAC Gaming Account	
	Opening as Feb 22, 2024	\$ 4,490.37
	Add	
	Less	
	Closing Balance Apr 25, 2024	<u>\$ 4,490.37</u>
10.2	DPAC General Account	
	Opening as of Feb 22, 2024	\$ 3662.62
	Add	
	Less	
	Closing Balance Apr 25, 2024	<u>\$ 3,662.62</u>

Motion: Upon presentation of the invoice by Shelley Moore for \$1050, exceeding the previously approved amount of \$1000 for parent education at the September DPAC meeting, it was MOVED by Shannon Rose and SECONDED by Bethany White (Aberdeen) to approve an additional \$50 to cover the discrepancy. CARRIED

## **11 Old Business**

### **11.1 BCCPAC AGM and Conference: May 3 (Conference), May 4-5 (AGM)**

Proxy forms are now available. If you cannot attend, DPAC can vote on your behalf. The deadline for submitting two representatives is approaching. We are still missing proxies from five schools.

## **12 New Business**

**12.1 Spring Carnivals:** If open to the public, City of Abbotsford permits are required. DPAC can assist with obtaining permits.

**12.2 BC Gaming Application:** Open until June 30 for 2024/25 funding. Applying on time is crucial to ensure eligibility for gaming funding. You should receive a Confirmation of application receipt

**12.3 DPAC Board Nominations:** Nominations are currently open. Members can be re-elected up to four times for the same position.

**12.4 Parent Night Series - Mental Health Awareness:** Scheduled for May 8, from 7-8:30 pm at Clayburn Middle School.

**12.5 School District 34 Events:**

**12.5.1 Public Budget Info Night:** May 16 at 6 pm. Details pending on whether it will be held in-person at the School Board office or online via Teams.

**12.5.2 Board Meeting:** May 14 at 7 pm at the School Board office.

## **13 Open Floor**

**13.1 Regarding Event Permits:** No permit is required if only the school community is attending an event. However, a permit and separate insurance is needed if it is open to the public since it's not considered a school event.

**13.2 Reminder to PACs (Parent Advisory Councils) to elect their DPAC (District Parent Advisory Council) representative when selecting their executives.** Changes should be sent via email, and it's important to inform DPAC promptly.

**13.3 Confirmation that the DPAC budget for BCCPAC Conference and AGM includes an allocation of \$50 per person per day for food.**

## **14 Next Meeting**

The next DPAC meeting will be held May 23, 2024 at 7pm at School Board Office.

## **15 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

## Zoom Attendance Report

Name (Original Name)
Shannon Rose
DPAC Secretary. - Winsome Rauch (Winsome Rauch)
Ray Velestuk
Michelle Bastien - DPAC Vice Chair
Preet Rai
Amanda (Terry Fox Elementary)
tracey
Amanda-Terry Fox
Nicci Allen# Fraser Health (nallen3)
Dee Sekhon   Fraser Middle
Marc - Abby Sr
Josephine Leonard Chief Dan George & WJ Mouat
Bethany White - Aberdeen
Carly Bradner (Carly)
jas dpac ats
Heidi DPAC Special Education Rep
Deanna-Terry Fox
Hon Adaora